

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 ± 26, wherein the gateway comprises a database for storing the message.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the database has a directory structure for associating the wireless device with the message.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the gateway flags the message in the database with the delivery information and executes a protocol to determine when the flagged delivery information matches a time indicated by the gateway.
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 ± 26, wherein the delivery information indicates a length of time before the gateway carries out the delivery instruction.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 ± 26, wherein the delivery information indicates a date and time for the gateway to carry out the delivery instruction.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 ± 26, wherein the message is a text message.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are included in the text message.
9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 ± 26, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are in a header of the message.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 26, wherein the external network is the Internet.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 26, wherein the wireless device is a pager.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 26, wherein the gateway deletes the stored message before the message is delivered.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 20, wherein message is a text message, and the delivery instruction and delivery information are included in the message.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 20, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are in a header of the message.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 20, further comprising flagging the message with delivery information; and carrying out the delivery instruction by comparing the flagged message with a time indicated by the wireless system.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 20, wherein the message is sent over the Internet through a connection to the wireless network.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 20 further comprising canceling the delivery instruction before the message is delivered.

20. (Currently Amended) The A method of ~~claim 13~~ sending a message by a sender to a user of a wireless device over a wireless network, the method further comprising:

sending a message including identification of a recipient of the message, a delivery instruction and delivery information indicating a time at which the message is to be delivered to the wireless device of the recipient;

storing the message;

modifying the delivery information before the message is delivered; and

delivering the message to the wireless device over the wireless network at the time indicated by the delivery information, wherein the delivery instruction and the delivery information are set by the sender.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 26, wherein the message includes a predetermined period, and wherein the gateway causes the message to expire if it is not received by the wireless device within the predetermined period.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the message further comprises a key word followed by a predetermined period after which the message is to expire.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the gateway stores the message for the predetermine period, and deletes the message when the predetermined period is reached.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the gateway further comprises a database including a directory for storing a message designated to expire after the predetermined period, and wherein the gateway deletes the message upon the expiration of the predetermined period if the message remains undelivered.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 ~~26~~, wherein the message includes a predetermined cancellation instruction to cancel the delivery of a previous message, and wherein the gateway cancels delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined cancellation instruction.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus of claim 1 for sending a message received from a sender-over a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

a gateway for receiving the message transmitted over an external network in communication with the gateway, the message including identification of a recipient of the message, a delivery instruction and delivery information indicating a time at which the message is to be delivered to a wireless device of the recipient, for storing the message, and for carrying out the delivery instruction by delivering the message at the time indicated by the delivery information, wherein:

the message includes a predetermined modification instruction to modify the delivery of a previous message, ~~and wherein:~~

the gateway modifies the delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined modification instruction; and

the delivery instruction and delivery information are set by the sender.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus of claim 1 for sending a message received from a sender over a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

a gateway for receiving the message transmitted over an external network in communication with the gateway, the message including identification of a recipient of the message, a delivery instruction and delivery information indicating a time at which the message is to be delivered to a wireless device of the recipient, for storing the message, and for carrying out the delivery instruction by delivering the message at the time indicated by the delivery information, wherein:

the message includes a predetermined instruction to cancel a message that is not immediately delivered to the wireless device, ~~wherein:~~

the gateway determines whether the wireless device is capable of receiving the message, and wherein the gateway cancels the message if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message; and

the delivery instruction and delivery information are set by the sender.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the gateway returns the cancelled message to the sender.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the gateway cancels the message immediately if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 ~~20~~, further comprising:
sending a message including a predetermined period; and
causing the message to expire if it is not received by the wireless device within the predetermined period.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising sending a message including a key word followed by the predetermined period after which the message is to expire.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 further comprising:
storing a message designated to expire after the predetermined period in a database; and
deleting a message upon the expiration of the predetermined period if the message
remains undelivered.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 20 further comprising:
sending a message including a predetermined cancellation instruction to cancel the
delivery of a previous message; and
canceling delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined cancellation
instruction.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 20 further comprising:
sending a message including a predetermined modification instruction to modify the
delivery of a previous message; and
modifying the delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined modification
instruction.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 20 further comprising:
sending a message including a predetermined instruction to cancel a message that is not
immediately delivered to the wireless device;
determining whether the wireless device is capable of receiving the message; and
canceling the message if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising returning the
cancelled message to the sender.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising canceling the
message immediately if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the gateway comprises a database for storing the message.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the database has a directory structure for associating the wireless device with the message.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the gateway flags the message in the database with the delivery information and executes a protocol to determine when the flagged delivery information matches a time indicated by the gateway.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the delivery information indicates a length of time before the gateway carries out the delivery instruction.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the delivery information indicates a date and time for the gateway to carry out the delivery instruction.

45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the message is a text message.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are included in the text message.

47. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are in a header of the message.

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the external network is the Internet.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the wireless device is a pager.

50. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the gateway deletes the stored message before the message is delivered.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the message includes a predetermined period, and wherein the gateway causes the message to expire if it is not received by the wireless device within the predetermined period.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the message further comprises a key word followed by the predetermined period after which the message is to expire.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the gateway stores the message for the predetermined period, and deletes the message when the predetermined period is reached.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the gateway further comprises a database including a directory for storing a message designated to expire after the predetermined period, and wherein the gateway deletes the message upon the expiration of the predetermined period if the message remains undelivered.

55. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~39~~ 57, wherein the message includes a predetermined cancellation instruction to cancel the delivery of a previous message, and wherein the gateway cancels delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined cancellation instruction.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) ~~The A system of claim 39~~ for delivering over a wireless network, comprising:

a wireless communication network for receiving a message from a sender and sending the message to a wireless device;

an external network for transmitting the message; and

a gateway in communication with the wireless communication network, wherein the gateway is for receiving the message transmitted over the external network in communication with the gateway, the message including a delivery instruction and delivery information indicating a time at which the message is to be delivered to the wireless device, for storing the message, and for carrying out the delivery instruction by delivering the message at the time indicated by the delivery information, wherein:

the message includes a predetermined instruction to cancel a message that is not immediately delivered to the wireless device, ~~wherein;~~

the gateway determines whether the wireless device is capable of receiving the message, and wherein the gateway cancels the message if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message; and

the delivery instruction and the delivery information are set by the sender.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the gateway returns the cancelled message to the sender.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the gateway cancels the message immediately if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.